

PROPOSAL FOR INTERNATIONAL ALBUM

A187

A. THE IDEA

1. To arrange for the production of a record and/or tape of anti-war songs by main-stream international artists.
2. The individual songs would have already been released and distributed in South Africa. This would make it very difficult for the authorities to ban the album.
3. The album would be sold under the ECC logo with information on the Campaign on the back cover and also in the form of an inserted booklet.
4. The actual production of the album as well as all the necessary negotiations with artists and record companies would be done overseas.
5. The album would be sold locally and internationally.
6. Proceeds from sales of the album would go to ECC.

B. THE AIMS

1. Such an album, with artists and groups such as Bruce Springsteen, Elvis Costello and Dire Straits etc., would obviously appeal greatly to the constituency in which ECC is working. The album would put our message across to an incredibly broad spectrum of school pupils and young adults. In essence, it would have a huge conscientizing effect which we could never hope to achieve through our normal campaign work. The album would obviously be attractive to "consumers" who are not yet conscientised.
2. It is likely that in the very near future ECC may be prosecuted in terms of the Fundraising Act and/or be declared affected. The selling of the album would be a legitimate way of raising money. With big name groups the potential to raise a very large sum of money is highly feasible.
3. Such an album would also ensure that the issue of conscription is firmly placed on the agendas of anti-apartheid movements overseas. It would further bring home the crisis of conscription in South Africa to millions of people worldwide.
4. It would provide an opportunity for overseas artists to express solidarity with the Campaign as local musicians have done with the Forces Favourites album.

C. THE PRACTICALITIES

1. As mentioned above, the practical work required to produce the album would be carried out overseas.
2. ECC would appoint an overseas co-ordinator to get the ball rolling.
3. This person and other contacts would consult with various groups and individuals such as Artists Against Apartheid and Steve van Zandt (who made the anti-Sur City album) with a view to getting them to:

- a. consult with artists;
b. negotiate with record companies;
c. find a group/organisation to sponsor the production of the album;
d. facilitate the overseas distribution.
4. The cover design and enclosed booklet would be put together in South Africa.
- D. OTHER ISSUES
1. It may be nice for one of the artists to possibly write an original composition for the album.
2. It was suggested that there be local contributions. This was debated and rejected because :
- * it would add huge logistical difficulties
 - * it would negate one of the ethics of the album which is that of overseas artists expressing solidarity with the Campaign.
- E. THE CULTURAL BOYCOTT
1. Presently there does not exist a definite "line" on the cultural boycott. The three trends are:
- blanket boycot
 - selective boycot
 - no boycot.

Proponents of the blanket boycott insist that nothing South African can be touched and that nothing can be sold in South Africa.

Proponents of the selective boycott believe that in instances where a contribution will be made to the progressive struggle, then this should not be inhibited

The selling of the album in South Africa may anger the proponents of the blanket boycott.

As mentioned above, it is vitally important that the album be distributed in South Africa. As outlined, the album can make significant contributions to our struggle.

We believe the ending of conscription in South Africa to be part of the broader progressive struggle in this country.

Obviously, ECC, by selling the album locally, would be contravening the blanket boycott. It is necessary, therefore, that before any further steps are taken, representatives of the progressive democratic struggle in South Africa are consulted. In view of this, the Durban ECC Cultural Group is consulting with the United Democratic Front and the Congress of South African Trade Unions.

CULTURAL GROUP

DURBAN ECC, Room 20, Ecumenical Centre, 20 St Andrews Street, 4001 Durban.
March 19, 1987

End Conscription Campaign



Mon night I to come
round -  - 6.30

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END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

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